NOTE V.

ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE OF EREBOPHIS ASPER GTHR.

BY

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Having completed the description of an unknown and interesting snake, three specimens of which form part of the collections in the Leyden Museum, Dr. Günther's paper in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society, Part I, 1877: »On Reptiles from Duke-of-York-Island" came into my hands and I was convinced at a glance that the snake there described and figured under the name of *Erebophis asper* was the same as our specimens.

I have little to add to the details already published by Dr. Günther, but I am able to give comparative notes respecting the young and the adult specimens of this species, and can indicate three new localities where this snake may be sought for.

Our largest specimen measures 78 cm.; when captured it was in the act of shedding its skin which has come off partially, thereby causing the specimen to appear of a very bright colour when compared with the two others. It was sent to our museum by Mr. Hoedt, from Mysool.

Another specimen with only 133 ventral shields (the two others have 139 and 145 respectively) and measuring 69.5 cm. is exceedingly well preserved, of a dark chocolate brown and with patches on the back which are darker still. A few lighter coloured scales serve to border off these patches anteriorly and posteriorly. This specimen was captured in Jobie by Mr. von Rosenberg, the well-known naturalist to the Leyden Museum.

The third specimen represents a younger stage; its length does not exceed 36.5 cm. and its coloration differs in so far from the adult specimens that here the darker patches on the back are no longer indistinct but well defined, whereas a second series of smaller patches occurs on both sides of the body, along the sides of the belly. This specimen was forwarded to us some twelve years ago by the late Dr. Bernstein who collected it in Salawatti.

The finding of this snake not only in Duke-of-York-Island, but in other islands west of the mainland of New-Guinea as well as in the Bay of Geelvink, makes it very probable that it may yet be brought from intermediate regions.